

## Cultural Resources

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The BLM has the responsibility to manage and protect cultural resources on public lands in Idaho. Through a coordinated process of inventory, evaluation, analysis, and public involvement that includes Tribal consultation, Idaho BLM seeks to preserve important archaeological and historical properties and sites possessing traditional cultural and religious importance to Idaho's native Tribes for the benefit of current and future generations.

- In FY 2002, the BLM in Idaho continued its partnership with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to automate cultural resource site and project data. The purpose of this is to improve both offices' abilities to fulfill our responsibilities for legal compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.
- Select data on approximately 80 percent of Idaho BLM's 15,000 documented cultural properties have now been automated.
- Through BLM's Challenge Cost Share and other programs, Idaho BLM has formed important lasting partnerships with Tribal governments, State agencies, universities, local governments, and public groups to inventory, study, and protect important cultural resources on public lands. Some highlights of these partnerships in FY 2002 include:
  - ♦ Shoshone-Paiute Tribe Partnership to monitor at-risk archaeological sites in south western Idaho.
  - ♦ Co-sponsorship of Idaho Archaeology and Preservation Month with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office.
  - ♦ Restoration of the historic Shay Railroad Trestle, White Knob Historic Mining District in partnership with the Custer County Historical Society, White Knob Historic Preservation Committee, and the citizens of Mackay, Idaho.
  - ♦ Boise State University monitoring of archaeological sites in the Orchard Training Area for the Idaho Army National Guard.
  - ♦ Raptor Cave damage assessment and rock art documentation in partnership with the University of Idaho and Archaeographics.
  - ♦ Co-sponsorship of the Northwest Anthropology Conference in Boise with the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office, where 250 professional archaeologists and anthropologists presented recent research results and met in forums to discuss current cultural resource issues.
  - ♦ Study of the Lower Salmon River's archaeological and environmental history

- spanning the last 12,000 years (Dr. Loren Davis).
- ♦ Historical research of the history of Flint, Idaho a mid-1800s gold rush town (Boise State University).
  - ♦ Acquisition of lands to protect important segments of the Lewis and Clark Trail (Salmon Field Office).
  - In addition, BLM participated in efforts to educate the public about Idaho's history and heritage on public lands with the following projects:
    - ♦ Publishing "*Uncovering a Chinese Legacy: Historical Archaeology at Centerville, Idaho*," popular report for the public on archaeological excavations at the historic town site of Centerville.
    - ♦ Displays on native fishing in Idaho entitled "*Agaiduka*" at interpretive centers and museums in Owyhee and Ashton, Idaho.
    - ♦ Publication of the Nez Perce National Historic Trail auto tour guide.
    - ♦ Writing and publishing three articles in the *Arco Advertiser* on the restoration of the historic Shay Railroad Trestle.



Petroglyph, Nez Perce Historic Trail / BLM Photo

### *Cultural Resources Highlights*

Field Surveys	332 projects.
Inventory	53,798 acres.
Documentation	568 historic/archaeological properties.
Evaluation	132 historic/archaeological properties found to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
Monitoring	140 previously documented historic properties to assess their current condition.
Implementing Protective Measures	97 protective actions (installing or maintaining protective fences, gates, signs; stabilizing sites; applying administrative actions) taken.
Detecting Unauthorized Activities	7 incidents at archaeological/historic sites.
Environmental Education	22 presentations to over 4,000 persons, including elementary school children and adults regarding Idaho archaeology and history.
Permits	35 permits to private consultants to conduct cultural resource work on BLM lands in effect in FY 2002; 22 new permits issued in FY 2002.

## Fish and Wildlife

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Fish and Wildlife habitat management on Idaho's public lands consists of maintaining and improving food, water, cover, and space for over 100 species of mammals, 300 species of birds, 50 species of fish, 20 species of reptiles, and 15 species of amphibians. Major populations of deer, elk, moose, and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep winter on these lands. Approximately 95 percent of the California bighorns, 80 percent of the antelope, and 80 percent of the sage grouse populations in the State fulfill their year-long habitat requirements on BLM public lands. Gray wolves, grizzly bears, bald eagles, whooping cranes, and peregrine falcons, all threatened or endangered (T&E) species, spend part of their lives on BLM-administered lands in Idaho. The Snake River Birds of Prey Area has the highest known nesting density of raptors in North America.

## *National and Regional Sage Grouse Conservation Strategy*



- In conjunction with national program staff and other BLM states within the range of sage grouse, we have begun working on a strategy to avoid the need to list sage grouse as a threatened or endangered species.
- The strategy will address management of risks to the species that occur on public lands.
- Mapping strategies developed in Idaho, planning strategies developed in Oregon, and regional data compilation are being used as a basis of the regional strategy.
- In cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game, we are consolidating all existing data on sage grouse from BLM field offices and the Idaho Department of Fish and Game files and records.
- Several Idaho BLM field offices also participated in local working groups to improve sage grouse habitat in a cooperative environment.

## *Sensitive Species Management*

- The Idaho BLM sensitive species list has been updated in cooperation with Idaho Department of Fish and Game.
- We worked on Southern Idaho ground squirrel, pygmy rabbit and mountain quail inventory and habitat evaluations and restoration to build a foundation for management of these declining species. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game and several universities are central to the management of these species, with BLM as a management partner.
- We are also partnered with the Fish and Wildlife Service in developing a candidate conservation agreement for private lands in the Weiser basin for management of southern Idaho ground squirrels and other sensitive species.

## *Riparian-Wetland Management*

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Riparian areas are the narrow bands of water-dependent vegetation between the streams and the normal upland vegetation. These areas are very important to wildlife, livestock, watershed, and recreation values. There are about 3,900 miles of stream and 13,500 miles of non-stream associated with riparian-wetland areas in Idaho. A number of riparian enhancement projects are underway, and livestock management techniques are being used. A very important part of the program is the consultation, coordination, and cooperation with the livestock permittees, other agencies, and interested groups and individuals.

*“In FY 2002, BLM initiated management changes to improve riparian conditions on 316 acres of wetland and 233 miles of stream on public lands in Idaho.”*

- During the past fiscal year, Idaho BLM completed an initial comprehensive Statewide stream-associated riparian inventory.
- We also completed watershed assessments on 837,548 acres and monitored 759 miles of stream-associated riparian areas.
- We also initiated management changes to improve riparian conditions on 316 acres of wetland and 233 miles of stream, and we completed 48 projects directly affecting 34 miles of riparian area and 112 acres of wetlands.

## Wild Horses and Burros

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In 1971 Congress recognized unbranded and unclaimed wild horses and burros as part of the national heritage and a resource worthy of protection. At that time, they passed the Wild and Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act that gave the BLM and Forest Service responsibility to protect and manage wild horses and burros. In Idaho, BLM manages all wild horse areas under land-use plans, and herd management areas are monitored to assure that overpopulation and resultant damage to the range do not occur. There are no burros on public lands in Idaho.

*“During the year, 151 wild horse and/or burros gathered in Idaho and other states were adopted in Idaho.”*

- Currently in Idaho, 185 wild horses populate public lands in the Upper Columbia – Salmon Clearwater District and 487 wild horses in the Lower Snake River District.
- During the fiscal year, we gathered 109 horses and removed 91 from public lands in Idaho.
- We also hosted adoptions in Caldwell, Blackfoot, Sandpoint, and Challis for the wild horses and burros gathered from public lands in other states.
- A total of 151 wild horses and burros were adopted in Idaho from animals gathered from Idaho and the other states.
- The Idaho BLM also constructed a new wild horse and burro holding, preparation, and adoption facility in Challis and participated in interstate Wild Horse and Burro program support for gathers with Arizona, Oregon, and Wyoming.

